Wave Season *Booking Checklist*

Wave season (January through March) is when cruise lines roll out some of their best promotions of the year. Use this to be ready.

Before you book

- [ ] Choose your travel dates (and a backup option)
- [ ] Set your total budget, including extras
- [ ] Decide who's coming and how many cabins
- [ ] Pick a cabin type: inside, ocean view, balcony or suite
- [ ] Check that everyone's passport is valid
- [ ] List your must-haves (kids' club, adults-only areas, specific islands)

Promotions to compare

- [ ] Reduced or low deposits
- [ ] Onboard credit
- [ ] Included drinks, Wi-Fi or dining
- [ ] Kids or third and fourth guests sail at a reduced rate
- [ ] Free or discounted cabin upgrades
- [ ] Military, first responder or loyalty discounts

Questions to ask

- [ ] Is the deposit refundable?
- [ ] When is final payment due?
- [ ] What happens if the price drops after I book?
- [ ] Which perks are included with this fare?
- [ ] Are gratuities included or extra?
- [ ] Do I need travel insurance, and what does it cover?

After you book

- [ ] Save your confirmation number
- [ ] Add the final payment date to your calendar
- [ ] Buy travel insurance
- [ ] Book flights and a pre-cruise hotel
- [ ] Download the cruise line's app
- [ ] Book excursions and dining early

GOOD TO KNOW

Promotions change by cruise line and week to week. I keep an eye on them for you, so you get the best value without the research.